

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/678,297	KABURAGI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thierry L. Pham	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 5/30/06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 19-26; renumbered as 1-8.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
6. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 5/30/06.
- Claims 1-18 & 27-29 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19-26 are allowable over prior art of record; renumbered as claims 1-8.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior arts (US 6538762 and US 5166986) of record teach an apparatus and a method for binarizing the multilevel image and to transmit such binarized image data to the external image recording device, but the prior art of record fails to teach and/or suggest "binarization means for binarizing the multilevel image data by *using a dot connectivity parameter* which is variably controllable to control dot connectivity in a binary image; characteristic-information acquisition means for *acquiring characteristic-information concerning dot reproducibility* from the external image recording device, wherein the characteristic-information differs according to a type of the external image recording device; and determination means for *determining the dot connectivity parameter* to be used by the binarization means in accordance with the characteristic-information acquired by said characteristic-information acquisition means *and in combinations of other features*" as cited in independent claims 19 & 23. The examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of prior arts that teaches the above limitations and in combinations of other features cited in independent claims 19 & 23 (which renumbered as claims 1 & 5 respectively).

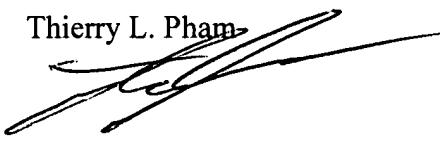
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham



GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER